

## **CHARTER**

### **Inter-agency Working Group Education, Ethics and Terminology**

### **Subcommittee on Forensic Science Committee on Science National Science and Technology Council**

#### **A. Designation**

The Inter-agency Working Group for Education, Ethics and Terminology (IWG EET) of the Subcommittee on Forensic Science (Subcommittee) is hereby established.

#### **B. Background**

The Charter of the Subcommittee on Forensic Science, Committee of Science (COS), National Science and Technology Council (NSTC), was enacted on July 7, 2009. The Subcommittee on Forensic Science will advise and assist the COS and the NSTC and other coordination bodies of the Executive Office of the President on policies, procedures and plans related to forensic science in the national security, criminal justice, and medical examiner/coroner systems at the local, state and federal levels.

#### **C. Functions**

In support of the Subcommittee's efforts, the IWG EET will convene with the purpose of exchanging views, information, and advice relating to the management and implementation of Federal programs relating to forensic science that are established pursuant to statutes that share intergovernmental responsibilities or administration. Such statutes include, but are not limited to, 42 U.S.C 14132 and the Justice for All Act. In pursuing its mandate, the IWG EET shall focus in particular on issues relating to forensic science education, ethics and terminology. Examples of the work the IWG EET may undertake include, but are not limited to:

- Identify formal degree programs and continuing education programs for forensic science examiners, prosecutors, defenders and judges.
- Identify accreditation organizations for formal forensic science degree programs.
- Identify existing sources of funding for scholarships for forensic science degree programs.
- Identify a code of ethics or professional responsibility that can serve as a uniform code, and recommend a process for implementing and enforcing such a code.
- Recommend a process for defining and standardizing forensic science terminology used in expert reports and testimony.

**D. Organization**

The IWG EET's co-chairs, executive secretary, and voting members shall be federal employees. In addition, state, local, and/or tribal elected officers (or their designated employees with authority to act on their behalf), and only such officers or employees, shall be invited to participate in the IWG EET as members in an advisory capacity. The IWG EET shall communicate its findings to the Subcommittee as requested. The IWG EET shall, as appropriate, outreach to and obtain input from forensic science and criminal justice organizations; state, local and private practitioners; and other stakeholders.

**E. Termination**

The IWG EET shall terminate concurrently with the Subcommittee on Forensic Science.

**F. Approval**

In my capacity as Co-chair of the Subcommittee on Forensic Science, I hereby determine that the formation of the Inter-agency Working Group for Education, Ethics and Terminology is in the public interest in connection with the performance of duties imposed on the Executive Branch by law, and that such duties can best be performed through the advice and counsel of such a group.



---

Kenneth E. Melson  
Deputy Director  
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives



---

Mark Stolorow  
Director  
Office of Law Enforcement Standards  
National Institute of Standards and Technology